

CIA 4 IRAN (agent)
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OKG I BEX (long range
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INTERNATIONAL REPORT

US Sigint Hardware Compromise If Shah Is Overthrown?

The Central Intelligence Agency's Office of Sigint Operations (OSO) is under considerable pressure on a number of seemingly unrelated, but interwoven areas of concern. At the vortex of OSO's problem is the de-stabilized regime in Iran, which could whirl the United States into an eddy current of disaster. Questions like what would happen if the Soviets were to gain possession of the Sigint hardware now in Iran if the Shah's government were to be toppled have reportedly occasioned a great deal of contingency planning which centers on a "scorched earth" withdrawal strategy.

"Accommodation" Collection Sites Worry CIA's OSO

Iran's much publicized Ibex Sigint program, together with CIA "accommodation procurements," represents approximately \$1.5 billion in the latest US Sigint hardware deployed or soon to be deployed in that troubled nation. Much of the equipment is of the latest US vintage and would represent an intelligence bonanza to the Soviets should a leftist regime take power from the Shah. Fortunately, most of this equipment is being held in bonded warehouses in the US. But the "accommodation" collection sites along the Soviet border are OSO's biggest worry, and the Carter Administration is now setting up some guidelines that would prohibit CIA from entering into any further "accommodations" with other nations no matter how stable the regime seems at the time.

"Accommodation" is a State Department term that refers to spookdom's penchant for setting up, manning, equipping, and servicing intelligence collection sites in a host country at the expense of the US Office of Management of the Budget. In exchange, or as an "accommodation," the United States shares data collected from the sites either for an unlimited time or for some negotiated period. CIA was entitled to the "accommodation" in countries whose borders actually touch the Soviet Union, but not generally in nations whose territory is not contiguous with Russia. The funds for OSO's "accommodation" ventures were incorporated in CIA's overall budget, which is classified.

Accommodation Dies, But Is Resurrected in China

Events transpiring in Iran, and what the Carter Administration perceives to be judgmental errors at CIA, have resulted in accommodation in danger of becoming a thing of the past. And just as the administration is about to issue an edict to this effect, the People's Republic of China emerges as another \$5 billion accommodation. The United States has agreed with the PRC to set up, install, man, equip, and service a series of Sigint sites along that country's border with the Soviet Union. President Carter's national security advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski, has reportedly offered to provide PRC with the "eyes and ears of the West" (EW/DE, Aug. 1978, p. 23) in a secret deal that also includes a US guarantee of no opposition to conventional arms sales to PRC by NATO partners. The China deal, while it would represent a \$5 billion windfall to the US Sigint industry, would also represent the largest accommodation procurement since the Marshall Plan. A "directed accommodation procure-